

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Allio Fails to Teach or Suggest the Invention

Claims 1 and 12 stand rejected as anticipated by Allio. Claims 1 and 12 recite, respectively, an apparatus and a method for reproducing an image in *free space*. Both claims further require that at least some of the portions of reproduced visual information *overlap*. For the reasons set forth below, we submit that Allio neither discloses nor even suggests reproducing in *free space* an image containing *overlapping visual information*.

Specifically, Allio describes an imaging system involving a series of cylindrical lenses arranged to direct a set of *abutting* (not overlapping) anamorphic images such that a composite *planar image* is formed on a *surface* (not in free space) for viewing or recording. Thus, in accordance with Allio, an image is not formed by overlapping visual information in free space, but is instead formed by projecting a displaced series of laterally compressed views on a surface to convey an impression of depth.

In the Office action, the Examiner cites col. 6, lines 12-20 of Allio as teaching the use of overlapping visual information in free space. In fact, the cited language not only fails to support this contention, but actually contradicts it. The relevant language from Allio is as follows (emphasis added):

Under such conditions, and as explained below in the description, the image obtained in the focal plane P has an anamorphosis ratio substantially equal to n between the vertical component and the horizontal component of each of the elementary images I₁, I₂, I₃, and I₄. The image I obtained in this way thus comprises four *juxtaposed and touching plane images* of anamorphic format I₁ . . . I₄ which correspond to the "n-image" mode of the above-mentioned French patents.

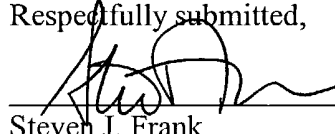
Clearly, the composite image obtained in Allio is a planar *side-by-side arrangement* of elemental images. If the anamorphic images at the backplane of Allio's system were allowed to overlap, these images would mix and thereby corrupt the viewable images. Consequently, Allio's system *depends* on the absence of visual-information overlap.

In addition, Allio's system depends on the ability to project images upon a surface for viewing. Throughout the camera and projector embodiments of Allio, a projection screen, sensor, or other suitable media is always included to receive the composite image discussed above. Consequently, there is no capability or teaching in Allio for free-space imaging as required by pending claims 1 and 12.

In sum, the concepts of (1) *overlapping visual information* and (2) *reproducing an image in free space* central to claims 1 and 12, are neither disclosed nor suggested by — indeed, are fundamentally at odds with — the anamorphic system used in Allio. Because claims 1 and 12 are patentable thereover, it follows that the remaining claims are patentable as well.

In light of the foregoing, we submit that all claims are now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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